

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 15 and 20 were rejected as being anticipated by Fivian. Claim 16 was rejected as being obvious over Fivian. Claims 18 and 21-26 were rejected over Fivian in view of Rukavina et al. Claim 19 was rejected over Fivian, Rukavina et al., and Grutzmacher et al.

Claims 15 and 18 have been amended to recite "a driving unit for moving at least one of the rotating shaft and the workpiece in the vertical direction, horizontally in the longitudinal direction of the rotating shaft, and horizontally in the longitudinal direction of the grooves along the side faces of the grooves ...." Fivian does not have the claimed movement of the grinding wheel in the three recited directions with respect to the workpiece and its grooves. Col. 3, lines 7-9 explicitly state that "during the grinding operation there is not required any movement in the lengthwise direction of the teeth." Rukavina has no relevant disclosure.

Claims 15 and 18 also recite, "detecting the position where the polishing element is in contact with the workpiece." Fivian has a feeler 11 which periodically detects the dimensions of the grinding wheel, but does not detect a position where the polishing element is in contact with the workpiece.

The comments on the prior art from previous amendments are incorporated by reference. For at least the foregoing reasons, allowance of claims 15 and 18 and their dependent claims 16 and 19-26 is requested.

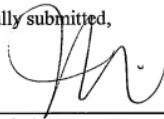
New claims 27 and 28 depend respectively from claims 15 and 18 and recite that "said driving unit is capable of moving said at least one of the rotating shaft and the workpiece, in each of said directions, while said disc polishing element is being rotated by said rotating shaft."

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Examiner is requested to allow claims 15, 16 and 18-28 and pass this case to issue.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS FILING SYSTEM ON November 2, 2006.

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Respectfully submitted,



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